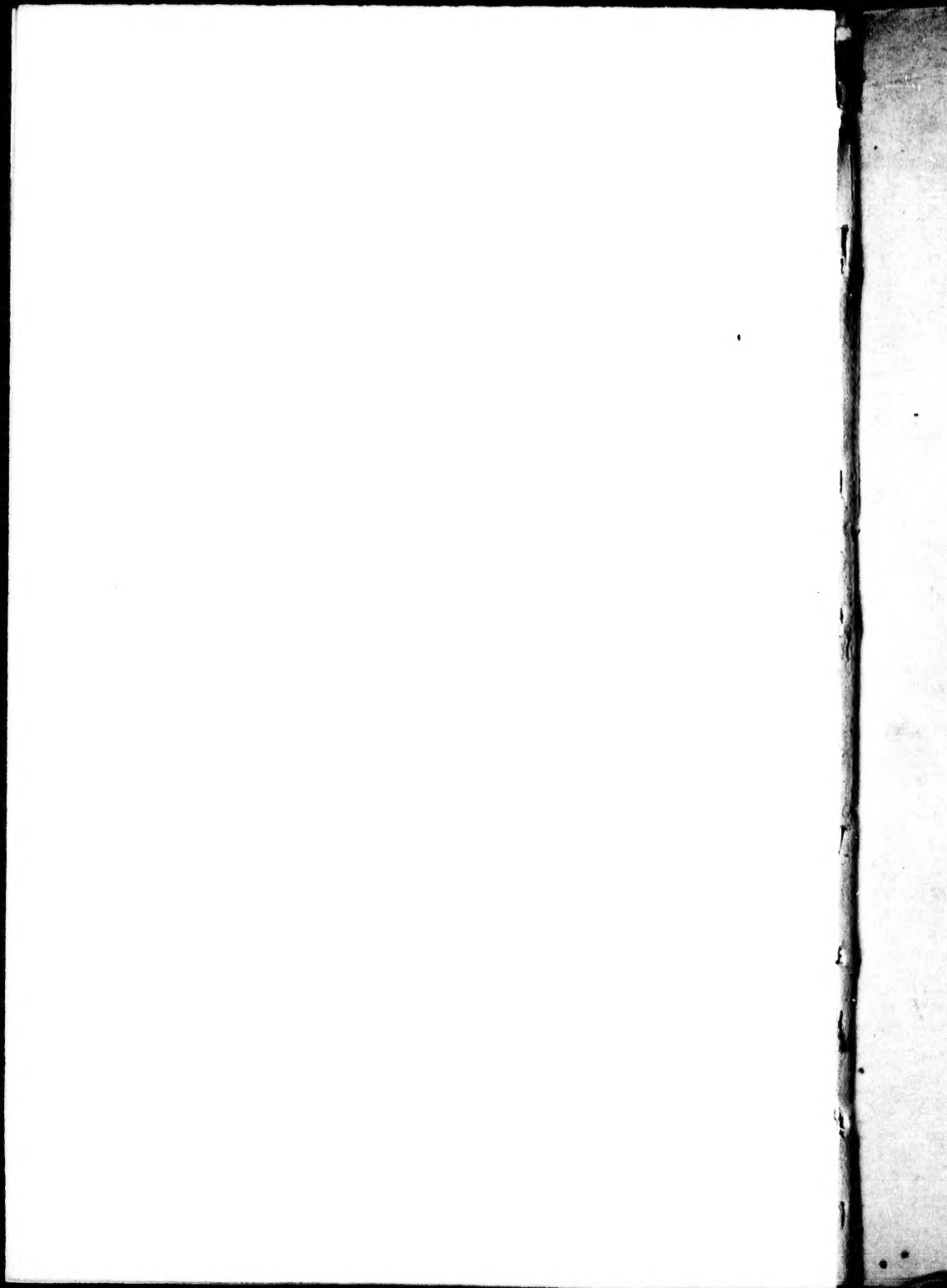




CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

TORONTO

Young Men's Christian Association,

ADOPTED 20th DECEMBER, 1853;

REVISED 9th JANUARY, 1855.

TORONTO :

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OFFICERS FOR 1855.

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MATTHEW SWEETNAM, *1st Vice-President.*
JAMES BOYD, *2nd Vice-President.*
ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, *Treasurer.*
CHARLES R. BROOKE, *Corresponding Secretary.*
W. RUSSELL ROSS, *Recording Secretary.*

COMMITTEE.

Messrs. J. A. CREIGHTON.	Messrs. GEORGE CAREY.
JAMES WHYTE.	R. REYNOLDS.
G. H. CORNISH.	WM. FORREST.
T. SELLAR.	JAMES THOM.
THOMAS SAUNDERS.	ROBERT WILKS.
JOHN FORSYTH.	A. C. SCARTH.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

On Ways and Means.

Messrs. FORSYTH, FORREST, WHYTE, and the TREASURER.

On Lectures, Essays, &c.

Messrs. SELLAR, SCARTH, THOM.

On Rooms and Distribution.

Messrs. CREIGHTON, CORNISH, SAUNDERS.

On Vigilance.

Messrs. CAREY, REYNOLDS, WILKS.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE**On Statistics.**

Messrs. **WHYTE.**
SCARTH.
G. MURRAY.
SELLAR.
REYNOLDS.
D. SCOTT.

Messrs. **THOMAS.**
CORNISH.
WILKS.
McMULLEN.
NASMITH.
BOYD.

The **PRESIDENT** and **RECORDING SECRETARY** are *ex-officio*
members of all Committees.

ADDRESS.

There is nothing uncommon in the association of young men for mutual improvement ;—efforts of this character are common in our evangelical churches, in the form of Bible classes, prayer meetings, or mutual improvement societies, while some possess small libraries of select books to which their young men may resort for religious information. But these efforts, being entirely denominational, are not only, of necessity, more limited in their action and influence than the united action of the whole in one large association ; but denominational efforts of every kind have a tendency to confirm sectarian prejudices, and to narrow down our affections to those who think, as we think,—the more Christians of every shade of opinion co-mingle, the more do they appreciate the folly of those who would fold their arms with haughtiness, as if always on guard to resist some anticipated attack on their distinctive principles. It was said of the primitive Christians, “ See how they love ;” why may it not be said again ?

The churches have, happily, passed through the age of controversy ; they are now called upon to afford to the world a practical illustration of that unity which really exists among all evangelical Protestants.

Since the establishment of an institution of this character in London, they have sprung up in most of the countries of Europe, in Asia, Africa, America, and many of the dependencies of Great Britain,—a certain proof of their adaptation to the peculiar wants of young men.

Their great object is to provide rooms fitted up with convenience and taste, supplied with the periodicals of the day

as well as a library of good books for reference and amusement ; with Bible classes, meetings for prayer or discussion and classes for instruction in music, drawing, history, &c. ; the whole under the superintendence of religious men, whose duty it will be to render every engagement attractive to young men, in order to win those to the paths of virtue and religion who would otherwise be found, after the labours of the day, seeking any excitement that may present itself.

To effect this object, the Association will spare no pains ; it undertakes to recommend suitable boarding-houses to strangers coming into the city,—to see that even there they shall not want religious influence or stimulus to intellectual culture ; if they are sick, a committee will wait upon them, and if they need employment, the influence of friends will be proffered to assist in finding it.

Young men are continually taking up their residence in this city, and the means for vicious and irreligious pursuits are rapidly multiplying, hence we cannot doubt the necessity for such an Association. *Shall it be effectively supported ?* is a question that must be answered by our evangelical ministers and by a religious community. In other places, the rooms of the Association are used in the day-time by ministers as a place of meeting, just as merchants meet in the Exchange ; they use the rooms for consultation reading and friendly intercourse ; while in the evening members of their churches meet for various purposes and become acquainted.

Surely such a proposition must commend itself, especially as but a small outlay would be requisite to accomplish it.

CONSTITUTION.

Name.

1. This Society shall be called "THE TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION."

Object.

2. The Object of this Association shall be to unite the young men of the respective Evangelical denominations in this City, for mutual edification and mental improvement, as well as more effectually to benefit others, as they may have opportunity.

Basis.

3. This Association adopts, as the Basis of its proceedings, those fundamental principles of Christianity, on which all Protestant Churches agree, and will not admit any intermeddling with those matters on which such Churches differ.

Officers.

4. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Corresponding and a Recording Secretary, and a Committee of twelve, who shall be elected annually, and enter on the discharge of their respective duties immediately after their appointment. The committee and officers shall be *bona fide* members of some Evangelical Church.—Five to form a quorum.

Members.

5. Two classes of members only shall be recognised in this Association, viz : Ordinary and Honorary members.

All persons over fifteen years of age, (qualified according

to Art. 2 of this Constitution) who have been proposed and seconded at a previous meeting, shall be eligible for membership, and shall be admitted by a majority of votes taken by show of hands.

Should recourse to the ballot be demanded by any member, five black balls shall exclude the candidate from membership.

Fees.

- + 6. The annual subscriptions to this Association shall be five shillings ; to be paid by the candidates on their being received into membership.

Meetings.

- + 7. The Annual Meeting of this Association shall be held in the last week in November, for receiving reports, electing officers, and transacting other necessary business. All the meetings of this Association shall be opened by reading a portion of Scripture and prayer, and close with prayer.

Amendment of Constitution.

8. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended except at the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting convened by the Committee, at the request of any twelve members of the Association, two-thirds present being necessary to constitute a majority in favour of such alteration.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Membership.

1. Proposals for membership shall be made in writing, and shall state the name of the candidate, his residence, occupation, and the church or congregation with which he is connected.

2. The distinction of Honorary Member shall be conferred on any one who has rendered eminent services to the Association, on being elected by two-thirds of the members present by show of hands at any ordinary meeting.

3. The members shall seek out young men taking up their residence in this City, endeavour to bring them under moral and religious influence, and by every means in their power, surround them with Christian associates.

ARTICLE II.

Officers.

1. It shall be the duty of the President, or, in his absence, the senior officer, to preside at all meetings of the Association, preserve order, and give the casting vote.

2. The Treasurer shall receive all monies due to the Association, and disburse the same under the direction of the Committee. He shall keep a full and correct account of his transactions, and report to the Committee when so required, and to the Association at its annual meeting.

3. The Corresponding Secretary shall, under the direction of the Committee, have charge of the correspondence of the Association. He shall keep copies of all letters

written, and fyles of all those received by him, relating to the affairs of the Association.

4. The Recording Secretary shall keep a register of the name, residence, occupation, and Church or Congregation of each member ; he shall keep a correct record of all the proceedings of the Association, and notify officers, members, and committees of their election ; and present a written report of the Association to the Annual meeting.

ARTICLE III.

Committees.

1. The General Committee shall have the management of the business of the Association, and shall meet on the third Monday of each month and report annually.

2. The standing sub-committees, viz, a committee on Rooms and Distribution, a committee on Lectures, Essays, and Debates, a committee on Ways and Means, and a committee of Vigilance shall each consist of three members of the General Committee, to be appointed by the President. The President and Recording Secretary shall be, *ex-officio*, members of each sub-committee.

3. The committee on rooms and distribution shall procure suitable accommodation for the meetings of the Association, and attend to the distribution of all printed matter.

4. The committee on Lectures, Essays, and Debates shall provide for the delivery of monthly Public Lectures, prepare a list of subjects for essays, debates or conversations, engage members to take part in the meetings, and prepare a programme of each meeting.

5. The committee on Ways and Means shall devise means for obtaining necessary funds for the Association, and shall approve (if correct) all accounts referred to them by the General Committee, previous to being paid by the

Treasurer.—The Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* a member of this committee.

6. The Vigilance committee shall assist in carrying out more effectually By-Law No. 3, Art. I, by endeavouring to procure situations for deserving young men who are in search of employment, and who are introduced to them by any member of the Association.

7. There shall also be a committee, consisting of twelve members, to be chosen from the various denominations represented in the Association, for the purpose of collecting religious and moral statistics.

ARTICLE IV.

Meetings.

1. Ordinary meetings of the Association shall be held on the Tuesday evening of each week during the session for reading essays and discussion, or for public lectures.

There shall be one session in each year, commencing on the first day of November, and ending on the first day of May.

Meetings shall commence at half-past seven o'clock, and close at ten o'clock.

2. Special meetings of the committee shall be called at the option of the President, or at the request of three members of the committee.

3. Any officer or member of committee absenting himself from three consecutive regular meetings of the committee without a sufficient reason, shall vacate his office. All vacancies shall be filled by the committee.

ARTICLE V.]

Order.

1. The time to be occupied in reading an essay shall not exceed twenty minutes.
- * 2. First and second speakers in a debate shall not exceed fifteen minutes each ; other speakers shall not exceed
* ten minutes each, except by permission of the meeting.
3. The first speaker shall have the right to close the debate, but shall not exceed ten minutes in doing so.
4. The merits of a question shall be decided by the vote of the members.
5. The following shall be the order of the proceedings at the ordinary meetings of the Association :
 1. Read a portion of Scriptures and prayer.
 2. Read the minutes of the preceding evening.
 3. Elect members proposed.
 4. Propose new members.
 5. Essay or Lecture which shall not exceed 20 m.
 6. Debate or conversation.
 7. Announce subject for discussion and speakers for next meeting.
 8. Prayer.
6. These By-Laws and Rules of order may be altered or amended after one month's notice of such proposed alteration or amendment has been made.

RULES FOR WRITING ESSAYS.

(From the "Glasgow Young Men's Journal," for August, 1833.)

I. Endeavour, by reading and reflection, to obtain clear and distinct ideas of the subject on which you intend to write, *and do not put pen to paper*, until you know *precisely* the object you have in view in writing your essay.

II. This having been done, let all your observations, either directly or indirectly, tend to establish this object, and thus, throughout your pieces, unity, that grand desideratum in every species of composition, will be maintained.

III. Your next business is to divide your subject into heads. An Essay may be variously divided, according to the nature of the subject; sometimes few, sometimes many divisions are to be employed. The following, however will be found practicable in the generality of cases:—

1. DEFINITION.—In this define your subject; if the word admits of several meanings, state the sense in which you adopt it. A clear definition may prevent much discussion.

2. CAUSE OR ORIGIN.—Under this head, you may trace out the origin or commencement of that which forms the subject of your essay, which will, of course, lead you to a sketch of

3. THE ANCIENT STATE,—Wherein the early history must be treated of, that is to say, if the subject of your essay (such, for instance, as music,) has existed in an ancient state. Should your subject, however, be such a one as printing, or any other art unknown to the ancients, you cannot, of course, give an account of its ancient history,

although you may, with propriety, narrate all that is interesting with regard to the early portion of its modern history.

4. MODERN STATE.—After having thus sketched the history of your subject, either as it existed amongst the Egyptians, Turks, Romans, &c., or as in the dark ages of European story, you may proceed to give some account of its modern state, and may briefly review either those steps by which it has reached its present state of perfection, or those reverses by which it has degenerated from its pristine excellence.

5. UNIVERSALITY.—Under this division. show how that particular art or science of which you write, has existed or does still exist in various places throughout the world. After this general survey, you may particularize, under the head of

6. LOCALITY.—The state of your subject in any particular empire, country. county or even city.

7. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES.—By some these are separated, but as the one is frequently contrasted with the other in the same sentence, it may perhaps be more advantageous to combine them under one division.

8. CONCLUSION.—Having thus treated pretty fully of your subject, you may now conclude, and although we should be the last in the world to recommend the adoption of a bombastic, inflated style, still we must confess that a well-written essay receives no small accession of effect by having a few of its concluding sentences graceful in expression, majestic in measure, and even musical in sound.

